Studentenforum

im Tönissteiner Kreis e.V.

Studentenforum im Tönissteiner Kreis e.V.

in Cooperation with

Centre for International Initiatives, Warsaw

Conférence Olivaint, Paris

Weimar Youth Forum 2013:

Europe's Energy Future

Energy Efficiency and Sustainability in the 21st Century

22nd-24th November 2013

Haus Annaberg, Bonn, Germany

CONFERENCE RESULTS

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I. Overview

The Studentenforum im Tönissteiner Kreis e.V.

The Studentenforum im Tönissteiner Kreis e.V. is a network of students aspiring to an international career, which aims to contribute to a globally interconnected society. Based on the motivation and the interdisciplinary background of its members, it seeks to develop innovative and sound contributions to current public debates. Within this framework, the Weimar Youth Forum is an integral element of the Studentenforum's annual event calendar. The present proposal is a continuation of a series of symposiums held in cooperation with the French Conférence Olivaint and the Polish Centre for International Initiatives, which is has been successfully carried out for the 6th time.

The Weimar Youth Forum 2013

Europe's Energy Future – Energy Efficiency and Sustainability in the 21st Century was the topic of the Weimar Youth Forum 2013. Together with the French Conférence Olivaint and the Polish Centre for International Initiatives, the Studentenforum discussed the challenges of a joint European energy strategy. Being a platform for intercultural dialogue, the network of the Weimar Triangle offers the possibility to members of the participating organisations to discuss the national energy policies of Germany, France and Poland from a comparative perspective in order to define approaches that aim to overcome future barriers to a common sustainable European energy strategy. Within the scope of the event, potential synergies and opportunities for political and economic cooperation in the field of renewable energies between the countries of the Weimar Triangle have been analysed. The Weimar Youth Forum 2013 approached the topic from three angles accounting for the political, legal and economic aspects of the energy strategies of Germany, France and Poland in a European context.

Program

The event was made up of introductory presentations and panel discussions on the different aspects of the national energy strategies. Based on these discussions, conference participants developed the topics further with the facilitation of renowned experts in this field. Ultimately, the present position paper summarizing the results of the conference has been produced, identifying specific political, legal and economic steps to deal with the challenges of setting up sustainable and efficient energy policies.

Our Goals

Our goal is to raise awareness for the urgency of a common European energy strategy and to set new impulses in the energy debates of the three Weimar countries: Germany, France and Poland. As in previous years, following the Weimar Youth Forum 2013, we published a position paper. Thereby we aim to increase the awareness for the need of common European action and to give food for thought on the current debate in France, Poland and Germany. Creating a cross-border dialogue on energy policy, the Weimar Youth Forum ensures a sustainable and active contribution to the advancement and strengthening of European Integration.

Organisation

The Weimar Youth Forum 2013 took place from November 22nd to 24th 2013, at the Haus Annaberg in Bonn, Germany. The 24 participating students comprised members of the Studentenforum im Tönissteiner Kreis and its French and Polish partner organizations, the Conférence Olivaint Paris and the Centre for International Initiatives Warsaw.

II. Topic of the Weimar Youth Forum 2013

In its strategy paper *Renewable Energy: a major player in the European energy market*, the European Commission remarks that the development of renewable energy sources has developed fast in recent years. Yet, to continue this growth trend in the future, a reliable general political framework is necessary. To create favourable conditions, investment incentives have to be found and the integration of renewable energy sources into the EU energy market has to be more actively supported.

On the political level, the EU has so far only set rough goals and targets for the development of renewable energy sources. In 2007, it was agreed that the total share of energy supply through renewable sources in Europe is to increase to 20 per cent by 2020. However, each member state was given the freedom to define a national goal for 2020. Hence, the implementation of the goal is not supervised on an EU level, but instead remains in the hands of national governments.

The different instruments that exist within the EU for promoting renewable energy are an example for the lack of political coordination. So far, no coherent energy policy exists within the EU. Although binding goals were formulated – specifically regarding the reduction in energy emissions and the expansion of renewable energy sources until 2020 – no further common European energy strategy exists to date. This becomes particularly apparent when taking a look at the energy policies of the states of the Weimar Triangle: Germany has decided to phase out nuclear power and to expand the use of renewable energy sources; Poland, on the other hand, still uses coal as its main source to generate power and plans to start making use of nuclear energy – renewable energy sources have so far been met with scepticism by the Polish government; in France, nuclear power plants still account for the largest part of national power generation and energy coming from nuclear sources will remain dominant in the near future.

The different energy strategies can be seen as a paradox since the energy industry has “Europeanized” in recent years. Although each member state still has great autonomy in defining its energy policy, neighbouring countries are increasingly affected by the decisions taken on a national level. For instance, wind-generated electricity from Northern Germany is increasingly being transported via the power grids of Poland and the Czech Republic to reach the South of Germany. Yet, the strain on those grids caused by the additional German wind-generated energy could, under certain circumstances, even threaten the national energy security supply. This example demonstrates that a stronger coordination of power generation within the EU is needed. If the already interconnected energy systems of EU member states continue to operate independently from one another, possible synergy effects could be lost and the efficiency would suffer.

Effective climate change is only feasible in close cooperation with other EU member states. In this context, the EU has an important role: How fast should the expansion of renewable energy sources be promoted after 2020? Which measures should be taken to reach this goal? Should the expansion of the renewable energy sector be continued through national support systems or should the EU take on a more defining role? In this case, not only common European projects, but also common binding European goals for the expansion of the renewable energy sector are needed.

Germany in particular should have a special interest in promoting an European energy strategy, as the energy transition can only effectively be carried out in close cooperation with its European partners. Germany has so far sought to implement the energy transition on its own. However, since this model can only be implemented through an extensive transformation of the energy industry, its success depends on Germany’s ability to engage with its European partners.

III. Cooperation Partners

Germany – Studentenforum im Tönissteiner Kreis e.V.

The Studentenforum im Tönissteiner Kreis e.V. is a network of students aspiring to an international career, which aims to contribute to a globally interconnected society. Based on the motivation and the interdisciplinary background of its members, it seeks to develop innovative, but sound contributions to current public debates. It does not only provide a platform for project work, but also promotes dialogue between the younger generation and representatives from politics, business, academia and the media. Thereby, it encourages its student members to take on social and political responsibility. The Forum aims to make a sustainable difference in society.

France – Conférence Olivaint

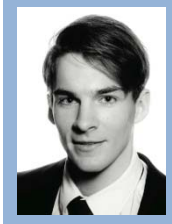
Established in 1875, the Conférence Olivaint is the oldest student society in France. The association serves the purpose of political education of French students. Its activities include weekly conferences with personalities from the political and economic spheres and civil society speaking on current affairs; debating sessions with other French student societies, commissions centred around a specific topic as well as study trips within France and abroad. The Conférence Olivaint fosters an international outlook for its members and has always engaged in cross-cultural exchanges. The association is a founding member of the Politeia network, an international partnership of student associations created in 2002.

Poland – Centre for International Initiatives

The mission of the Polish Centre for International Initiatives is to promote social consciousness by shaping public debates on problems of our times. By creating an environment conducive to mutual understanding it seeks to stimulate the growth of both the Polish and the global civil society. The organisation's reference is the changing international landscape while its base is rooted in the European and Polish cultural heritage. At the same time, its initiatives bear no ideological or political allegiance. Its primary objectives are the support of the Polish civil society, the promotion of international dialogue as well as the conduct of research and studies on contemporary issues in international relations.

IV. The Project Team

The Weimar Youth Forum 2013 has been organised by five members of the Studentenforum im Tönissteiner Kreis e.V.



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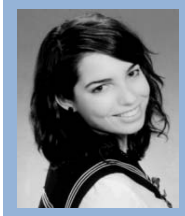

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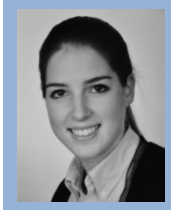

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V. Program

Friday, 22nd November 2013	
until 16:00	Participants' arrival
17:00	**Welcome**
17:15	**The Weimar Triangle: Past, Present and Future** *Guest Speaker: Dr. Christian Bode* *Former Secretary General of the German Academic Exchange Service*
18:00	**Introductory Lecture on European Energy Policy** *Guest Speaker: Torsten Wöllert* *European Commission, Deputy Head of Unit "Climate Action - Low Carbon Technologies"*
from 20:00 onwards	Dinner and cultural event

Saturday, 23rd November 2013	
until 9:30	Breakfast
09:30	**Energy Policy** *Guest Speaker: Christophe Schramm* *Former Policy Officer at DG Energy* Afterwards: Panel Discussion 1
12:00	Lunch
13:00	**Energy Law** *Guest Speaker: Katarzyna Herrmann* *European Commission, Legal Service* Afterwards: Panel Discussion 2
15:30	Coffee Break
16:30	**Energy Economics: Geopolitics, Economics and Regulation – Why Europe Needs a Common Energy Policy** *Guest Speaker: Prof. Dr. Marc Oliver Bettzüge* *Professor for Economics, especially the Energy Industry at the University of Cologne* Afterwards: Panel Discussion 3
19:00	Dinner
from 20:00 onwards	Cultural event

Sunday, 24th November 2013	
until 09:30	Breakfast
10:00	**Concluding Panel Discussion** *Guest Speakers: Christophe Schramm, Former Policy Officer at DG Energy and Dr. Eberhard Meller* *Senior Counselor, EWE AG* Afterwards: Presentation of the workshop results, final discussion, group picture
12:30	Lunch
from 13:30 onwards	Guided tour of Bonn, afterwards departure

VI. Summary of Conference Results

1. Introductory Lecture on European Energy Policy

Guest Speaker: Torsten Wöllert, European Commission, Deputy Head of Unit "Climate Action - Low Carbon Technologies"

Torsten Wöllert, European Commissioner in charge of climate-related issues in the Unit on Low Carbon Technologies of the EU, opened the conference by pointing out current problems of EU Energy Policy. One of the main challenges he envisages for future energy policy decisions is the energy triangle: sustainability, affordability and reliability of European energy supply.

As the EU was founded on energy issues, the cooperation of member states in frameworks such as Euratom and the European Coal and Steel Community has always been central for the European idea. The idea behind this concept is that the energy system could not be manipulated by the sole effort of one nation. Consequently, producing energy at the European level has always been both an opportunity for integration and an issue of conflict. How can the specific energy systems of European countries be integrated?

The plans to develop their energy system are different in each member state due to the specific situations therein. If we take the exploitation of shale gas as an example, some countries are harshly against the use of this technology whereas others perceive it as a promising opportunity. How can these contrasting opinions be overcome? To find a long-term solution, we need a common European position on critical issues such as shale gas.

One of the main challenges of the 21st century is climate change. As the CO^2 budget of the earth is limited, we can only emit a certain amount of carbon into the atmosphere. Therefore, the emission of greenhouse gases due to energy production cannot be longer regarded as a national issue – we have to think at least on an European or even global level since energy supply is a global matter. Europe needs coherence to act responsibly for our climate!

Sustainability, affordability and reliability are the key points of the European energy triangle. Europe needs a policy debate to shape its opinion how these goals can be integrated. In the light of different attitudes of European countries concerning ecology and economy, it has to be decided which goals of the energy triangle are most important for future European energy production. To achieve the milestones of carbon gas emission – 25% reduction by 2020, 40% by 2030 and 60% by 2040 the energy consumption behavior needs to be changed through a pricing strategy. Currently we have already developed all the technological innovation needed to archive the goal. Therefore a change in our energy consumption habits is central for the idea of reducing carbon gas emissions.

Industry, transport and households offer opportunities to increase energy efficiency. Concerning the implementation of renewable energies, a strengthened cooperation between the countries involved is needed. Thinking about market rules, close cooperation between European countries needs a common set of rules for grid stability, grid costs and priority feed-in. To achieve the goal of sustainable, affordable and reliable energy in a common European energy market, the European Commission can only lay the ground. It depends on the political will of each country to kick off and to implement common projects.

2. Energy Policy: European Energy Policy caught between Ambition and Reality

Guest Speaker: Christophe Schramm, former Policy Officer at DG Energy and adviser to the French energy minister, now adviser in the French Ministry of the Economy and Finance

In the workshop on the political aspects of European energy policy, Christophe Schramm introduced the participants to some important facts and figures and the history of European energy policy and gave his personal view on the most important future challenges to a more integrated European energy system. Having worked at the DG Energy of the European Commission, his insights into the workings at the EU were very interesting.

First, he highlighted that global energy demand is increasing. It is estimated that energy consumption is to double between 1990 and 2035. Europe's energy demand on the contrary is set to stay flat or even decline. The European Union today consumes one fifth of the world's energy but has very few resources of its own, it therefore depends on the rest of the world for its fossil energy supply. As a result, European energy imports are likely to increase to approximately 80% by the year 2030.

Thus, Europe has to a) diversify Europe's energy supplies and supply channels, b) ensure affordable energy prices to reduce the risk of making the European economy less competitive on the world market, c) protect the environment by combating climate change.

Christophe Schramm explained that energy is considered a strategic topic by all Member States because of its geopolitical implications. Significant progress has been made since the 1990's in the fields of market integration and sustainable development / climate protection. But although European Member States have long been aware that concerted and coordinated efforts are also needed to ensure the security of energy supplies, making Europe speak with "one voice" to its energy partners in the world has proven difficult if not impossible.

The envisaged single European energy policy has to compete with 28 national energy policies. This explains the complexity of the policy process involving many different powerful players at the national (national parliaments, industries) and European level (European Commission, European Council, European Parliament, industry associations, NGOs) that seek to influence the decision making.

History of European Energy Policy from 1952 to today: A dynamic policy field

Christophe Schramm emphasized that the idea of energy as a driver of further European integration is not new. The first European treaty of all, setting up the European Community of Steel and Coal (ECSC) in 1952, was considered a vital step in the development of an internal European energy market. One of its main goals was to break up the energy cartels in Europe.

Despite this strong start, energy policy was not high up on the agenda of European policymakers till the 1990s. Art. 129 c) of the Maastricht Treaty (1993) established energy as a policy field of the European Union.

Since then, the topic has become more and more important as issues such as climate change have been recognized as a challenge to Europe's future. Nowadays, energy is a prime topic in European policy. This is also underlined by the Lisbon Treaty, which dedicates a full article (Art. 194) to energy only. It lists three objectives of energy policy: it has to be secure, competitive and sustainable.

However, two important issues are not covered by the Lisbon Treaty: the choice of energy sources and taxation issues remain national prerogatives. Essentially, it is still in the hands of the Member States to decide about their energy mix.

Milestones in European energy policy: the 20-20-20 targets and energy infrastructure

Yet, Member States have agreed on a share of their energy mix through the European directive on renewables energies. The question of renewable energy was first addressed in 2001, when the EU came up with indicative targets for renewables in electricity. In 2007, the European Council agreed under German presidency on a climate and energy package. This set of binding legislation was adopted in 2008 under French presidency. It aims to ensure the European Union meets ambitious targets for 2020 ("20-20-20"): a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels; increasing the share of EU final energy consumption from renewable resources to 20%; and a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency.

Recent events such as the November 2006 electricity black-out or the January 2009 gas crisis raised political awareness for the issue of energy security and related infrastructure needs. As a result, the EU developed a regulation on European energy infrastructure in 2011 and agreed to dedicate almost 6 bilion euros to subsidize the development of more integrated European energy networks.

The limits and contradictions of European energy policy

But many challenges remain. Christophe Schramm pointed out that for historical and geographical as well as climatic reasons, the energy mixes in European Member States differ profoundly. Also the organisation of the national energy sectors remain largely different. In Germany for example, there are approximately 800 local electricity distribution and supply companies, the so-called Stadtwerke. In contrast, France has a single company – ERDF – operating almost the entire electricity distribution grid.

Moreover, Member States continue to disagree over the possibilities nuclear energy and shale gas offer. While Germany has decided to drop out of nuclear energy production, France and the UK hold on to their nuclear reactors. Similarly, shale gas is not an option in France or Germany, but Poland seems keen on producing energy via shale gas.

Partly because of such reasons, Member States have addressed problems and issues regarding energy in different ways. Hence, despite the considerable progress on the European level, differences and contradictions persist across the 28 national energy markets .

What future for an integrated European energy policy

Although complete harmonization of national energy mixes doesn't seem to be a viable option on the way to a fully integrated European energy policy, the different systems in Europe can be made complementary to each other.

In the opinion of Christophe Schramm, one of the first steps to overcome the stalemate in European energy politics is to develop a truly European energy market. This market has yet to become a reality, through the development of more powerful cross-border energy infrastructure, further harmonisation of national rules, e.g. regarding market integration of renewable energies or smart grids, and joint efforts to develop the energy technologies of the future.

3. Energy Law: European Union's Efforts Towards Decarbonized Energy – Legal Issues

Guest Speaker: Katarzyna Herrmann, European Commission, Legal Service

In her presentation, Katarzyna Hermann outlined the legal basis for the EU competence in the energy sector. Energy policy was only embedded in legal terms in the 1990s with the setup of the internal energy market in the Maastricht Treaty (1993).

Legal Basis for EU action for efficient and sustainable energy

With the Lisbon Treaty (2007), the legal bases for the EU's competences in environmental and energy policy were Articles 191, 192 and 194 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). Whereas the former two articles refer to the Union's environmental competences, the latter refers to the Union's competences in energy policy.

Environmental vs. Energy EU competence

At a first glance these articles seem to be in contradiction with one another: While Art. 192 TFEU gives the Council the competence to adopt "measures significantly affecting a Member State's choice between different energy sources and the general structure of its energy supply" for the environments sake, Art. 194 outlines the Union's competences to ensure the proper establishment and functioning of the internal market and further states that "such measures shall not affect a Member State's right to determine the conditions for exploiting its energy resources, its choice between different energy sources and the general structure of its energy supply, without prejudice to Article 192(2)(c)" (Art. 194 (2) TFEU).

Hence, even if the Union has the competence to set environmental standards for member states, it cannot interfere with a member state's choice of energy source or the structure of its energy supply. The differentiation between these two competences was important to highlight the complexity of the issue. However, Katarzyna Herrmann emphasized and suggested that these two competences are not in competition to each other and do not make each other redundant. With regard to the objectives set out in Art. 194, the 40% renewable energy target is very difficult to achieve as it would interfere with the sovereign right of member states to decide on their energy mix, but Art. 192 provides the Union with the competence to stipulate binding targets.

Legal framework for efficient and sustainable energy policy by 2020

The Energy and Climate Package (2009) sets the legal framework for efficient and sustainable energy policy till 2020. The most important directive of this package is the directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources. It takes into account the resources and effort of each member state in producing renewable energy, and also sets a biofuel target, stipulating that the transport sector has to rely on a 10% share of fuels from renewable energy.

Legal techniques chosen in Renewable Energy Source and energy efficiency policy

The Renewable Energy Source (RES) Directive has the objectives of implementing the "20-20-20" targets, setting up mandatory national RES targets and setting up a mandatory 10% RES target in the transport sector. Yet, as Katarzyna Herrmann emphasized, there are no effective legal tools to enforce those targets. Hence, if a member state does not reach those targets, all the Union can do is demand member states to amend their plans. Regarding the energy efficiency acquis, it is also essentially up to the member states to develop roadmaps and plans on how to achieve and implement the efficiency requirements.

Legally binding targets vs. national energy mix

Similarly, the target to have a 10% share of biofuel in the transport sector cannot be enforced by the Union because the energy sources and energy mix a member state chooses is a sovereign member state decision under Article 194 (2) TFEU.

RES legally binding targets vs. internal market principle

A further contradiction exists between legally binding "20-20-20" targets and the internal market principles. An internal market presupposes that commodities such as electricity can freely move within the Union. Yet electricity is not a "normal" good in the sense that it is not necessarily produced on the territory of a member state and could have different origins. This causes a fragmentation of the internal market: Every member state aims for its own targets with its own resources. However, the targets do not use the internal market principle where the efforts of one member states can compensate the energy goals in another member state. For instance, wind energy produced in Germany but used in Poland will not be taken into account - crossborder flows of green electricity are not counted in.

An example is the case C-26/11 "Belgische Petroleum Unie": Flemish suppliers purchased green electricity from Norway and demanded support schemes (green certificates) from the Flemish authorities for supplying the green energy. But the Flemish authorities refused the national support schemes on the grounds that the energy was not produced on Belgian ground. Even though the European Court of Justice stipulated that the refusal of national support schemes was against the free market principle, no judgment has been passed to date. Thus, cross-border cooperation and support in terms of financial support schemes only occurs on a voluntary basis. Katarzyna Herrmann emphasized that as the targets are nationally conceived, it is difficult to require from member states to give support to green electricity that does not add to their national targets.

Lessons for preparing the "2030 framework"

Katarzyna Herrmann concluded that the main challenge is to reconcile sustainable and efficient energy policy with the idea of the internal market.

4. Energy Economics: Geopolitics, Economics and Regulation – Why Europe Needs a Common Energy Policy

Guest Speaker: Prof. Dr. Marc Oliver Bettzüge, Professor for Economics, especially the Energy Industry at the University of Cologne

With Prof. Dr. Marc Oliver Bettzüge, we managed to acquire one of Europe's most renowned experts on energy questions. Having heard presentations on the political and legal aspects of Europe's energy past present and future, his background as an economist allowed us to put the acquired knowledge into perspective, using a third point of view in our last official workshop. Although some of the participants argued from the perspective of their home countries, this workshop focused more on a European and global perspective, keeping in mind the key concerns for the 21st century.

"Today we are using 40 times as much energy as hunter/gatherer societies". Prof. Bettzüge started his presentation by giving the consumption of energy a positive image, naming it one of the 4 main aspects of effectiveness in achieving results for a society besides the ability to get the society organized, the communication media a society uses and the weapons a society has at its disposal. His main point of critique concerning people who are convinced that we should built a society using less energy was that he is still missing an explanation how the current standard of living can be sustained under these circumstances.

After a few more facts and some basic historical information, we started diving deeper into the economic view on energy questions by determining what would happen if the growth in energy consumption would continue to grow. The results were instantly clear for almost all of the

participants: Shrinking sources leading to increased costs while at the same time climate change would continue to take place.

While discussing about the limits of this development we reached the conclusion that when it comes to the key concerns for the 21st century, it is not the scarcity of resources such as fossil fuels that defines a limit for human energy consumption, but rather their abundance. By regarding the system earth simply as a resource, Prof. Bettzüge argued, we are forgetting that this system also acts as a deposit for the waste products of the consumption of these resources, such as CO^2. The real limit to the world's energy consumption is thus the earth as an environmental system, which is highly endangered if the current development is to go on.

An answer we came up with to this problem with the help of Prof. Bettzüge is the strict limitation of CO^2 Production by limiting the burning of coal. In this context, pricing and thus regulation by the market itself does not help to contain the dangers of an excessive concentration of greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere.

In order to determine the possibilities of reducing CO^2 emissions, Prof. Bettzüge introduced us to the climate equation, using the defining factors "Environment", "Energy", "Wealth", "Population" to determine a society's energy consumption. By applying this equation to the circumstances of different regions in the world, we managed to break down several trends into their components such as the ever-increasing CO^2 emissions. However, it also helped us to visualize, that when talking about the reduction of global energy consumption and thus CO^2 emissions, it is hardly possible to reach results higher than 2% per year.

Consequently, with all of the knowledge acquired up to this point, we managed to establish four inconvenient truths for the future of our planet:

1) There is a serious threat to the well-functioning of several important Earths System-Processes.
2) Resources are abundantly available.
3) Technological efficiency on its own will not suffice to protect the limits of the Earth as a deposit as the saved income from efficiency increase will lead to further consumption and thus consummation of energy.
4) Achieving a balanced development path for the world requires supranational cooperation on the global level

Especially the fourth aspect, provided by Prof. Bettzüge, drew our attention since it was the only one providing us with a potential solution for the problems previously discussed. Consequently we asked ourselves questions of how to establish an effective supranational cooperation in the context of our home countries, the European Union and on a global level. In this context we came to analyze potential contributions of unilateral actions and their effectiveness as for example undertaken by Germany concerning renewable sources of energy.

The primary argument used by countries like Germany is that of being a role model. By reducing their own emissions and reducing their carbon extraction they try to inspire followers. However, these results are mostly achieved by delocalizing large parts of their production to other countries such as China who also heavily rely on fossil fuels for keeping up their energy infrastructure. From a macro-perspective, carbon emissions and extraction has thus not been reduced, but was simply outsourced.

An example for a promising approach of supranational cooperation consists in the promotion of carbon-efficient technologies by investing in basic research in order to reduce costs of production and by actively diffusing the results of this research. Our discussions on this topic revolved mainly around solar energy and the future of this renewable energy source, which is still four times more expensive than energy gained from carbon sources.

Another cooperative approach that was actively discussed was the enactment of financial transfers, border-tax-adjustments and subsidies in order to promote low-carbon technology development across the globe.

However, as promising, as these approaches seemed to us, we also acknowledged that so far, actual examples for the implementation of such a strategy were still missing. We concluded that the EU and especially Germany who's *Energiewende* does not take into account what is happening in Europe and all around the world, have an unbalanced, and unsuccessful climate strategy. What is more, we saw one of the biggest potential flaws of the EU's approach in its moral judgment towards other nations on a global stage when it considers itself the leader in terms of environment. Morality is something different from collective action.

However, taking into account the current facts, the answer to the problems at hand must still be the European Union. The varying energy efficiency of the different regions in the EU makes unilateral actions for some regions not very desirable, even if provided with shining examples by other countries. Nevertheless we were aware that we are part of a global energy system and that the EU is not the one to build an energy system which is cheaper and more efficient than everywhere else but excludes exterior factors. Thus, we strongly encourage cooperative approaches on a EU-level but also on a global level, including all major actors while leaving out moral judgment.

VII. Weimar Youth Forum 2013: Impressions